

Message Text

SECRET

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S E C R E T CARACAS 10390

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (PEREZ, CARLOS ANDRES)

SUBJECT: STATE VISIT TO U.S. OF PRESIDENT PEREZ

REF: CARACAS 10238

1. ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER GOMEZ MANTELLINI INFORMED

EMBASSY OFFICER THAT THE CHANGE OF DATES OF PRESIDENT PEREZ' PROPOSED VISIT TO THE US AND EUROPE RESULTED FROM A MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25 IN THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE IN WHICH GOMEZ MANTELLINI AND UN AMBASSADOR CONSALVI WERE PRESENT. THE PRESIDENT AND HIS ADVISORS STARTED FROM THE FIRST THAT THE TRIP WAS TOO LONG, THE PRESIDENT'S ABSENCE FROM THE COUNTRY FOR SUCH A LONG PERIOD WAS UNACCEPTABLE AND THAT THE PROPOSED TRAVEL SHOULD BE SPLIT INTO TWO SEGMENTS.

2. IN DECIDING WHICH COUNTRIES SHOULD FIT IN THE TWO SEGMENTS, GOMEZ SAID THAT THE JUXTAPOSITION OF THE US ELECTIONS WITH THE EARLIER DATES (DECEMBER 7 - 9) PROPOSED FOR THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN THE DETERMINATION THAT THE TRIP TO THE US SHOULD BE POSTPONED UNTIL FEBRUARY. THIS WAS IN ACCORD ACCORDING TO GOMEZ WITH THE ADVICE OF THEIR

"AMERICAN TECHNICAL ADVISORS" (AS BEST AS WE CAN

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DETERMINE, THESE "AMERICAN TECHNICAL ADVISORS" REFER

TO THE FIRM OF NAPOLITANO & WHITE WHICH, WE UNDERSTAND, IS UNDER CONTRACT TO THE AD PARTY. WE ARE AWARE, FOR INSTANCE, THAT CLIFTON WHITE FROM THAT FIRM IS PRESENTLY IN VENEZUELA).

3. CLEM COHEN, DIRECTOR FOR FOREIGN INFORMATION OF THE VENEZUELAN OFFICE OF CENTRAL INFORMATION, CONFIRMED TO ANOTHER EMBASSY OFFICER THAT THE DECISION TO POSTPONE THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON HAD INDEED PROCEEDED ALONG THE LINES DESCRIBED ABOVE, BUT ADDED THAT THE CONTRIBUTING FACTOR HAD BEEN THE INTRANSIGENCE OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT IN REFUSING TO ACCEPT THE DATES PROPOSED FOR THE PARIS PORTION OF THE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT.

4. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION FROM VARIOUS SOURCES, THE TRIP, AS NOW SCHEDULED, WILL PROCEED AS FOLLOWS:

(A) PRESIDENT PEREZ WILL ADDRESS THE UNGA ON NOVEMBER

16 ALTHOUGH THERE IS STILL APPARENTLY SOME DISCUSSION AS TO WHETHER THE PRESIDENT WILL DEPART CARACAS ON NOVEMBER 15 OR NOVEMBER 16. (B) THE PRESIDENT WILL VISIT LONDON DURING NOVEMBER 17 - 22 ALTHOUGH THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR INFORMS US THAT HE HAS JUST RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS FROM LONDON THAT THOSE DATES ARE UNACCEPTABLE. (C) ROME DURING NOVEMBER 22 - 25 APPEARS TO BE FIRM. (D) MOSCOW ON NOVEMBER 25 - 30. THESE DATES APPEAR TO BE SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION. (E) A TECHNICAL STOP WILL BE MADE IN LISBON ON THE RETURN TO CARACAS BUT ANY ACTIVITIES INVOLVING THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT WILL BE RESTRICTED TO THE AIRPORT.

5. THE SEGMENT OF THE VISIT POSTPONED UNTIL FEBRUARY WILL INCLUDE PARIS, BELGRADE, BUCHAREST AND TEHRAN
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WITH A VISIT TO WASHINGTON ON THE PRESIDENT'S RETURN LEG. GOMEZ MANTELLINI ASSUMED THAT THIS WOULD PUT THE PRESIDENT IN WASHINGTON IN LATE FEBRUARY.

6. THE ADDITION OF TEHRAN TO THE TRIP IS A NEW FACTOR AND REPRESENTS A RETURN VISIT SINCE THE SHAH OF IRAN VISITED VENEZUELA LAST YEAR.
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